

Appl. No. 09/976,182
Amdt. Dated September 5, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 5, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (presently amended): A disposable pull-on undergarment which comprises:

a liquid pervious top sheet;

a liquid impervious back sheet;

a liquid absorbent core interposed between the top and back sheets;

C1 front and rear waist-encircling regions opposed to each other and having longitudinal side edges that are joined together, at least one of said front and rear waist-encircling regions being elastically contractible in a waist-encircling direction;

a crotch region positioned between the front and rear waist-encircling regions;

a waist-encircling opening; and

a pair of leg-encircling openings,

said front and rear waist-encircling regions each comprising:

first elasticized zones which extend in the waist-encircling direction between each of the joined side edges of the front and rear waist-encircling regions and an adjacent side edge of the liquid absorbent core; said first elasticized zones having heights which extend in a longitudinal direction of the undergarment and

a second elasticized zone which traverses a width of the liquid absorbent core and

Appl. No. 09/976,182
Amdt. Dated September 5, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 5, 2003

extends in the waist-encircling direction between opposite side edges of the liquid absorbent core; core, said second elasticized zone having a height which extends in the longitudinal direction of the undergarment.

the first and second elasticized zones being adjacent to one another in the waist-encircling direction so that heights of the first and second elasticized zones are substantially coextensive along the waist-encircling direction and the first elasticized zones having a tensile stress that is greater than a tensile stress of the second elasticized zone.

Claim 2 (previously amended): The disposable pull-on undergarment of Claim 1, further comprising:

C1 waist elastic members extending in the waist-encircling direction are attached in an extended condition to an edge portion of the waist-encircling opening; and

a plurality of auxiliary elastic members spaced longitudinally apart from each other and extending in the waist-encircling direction in the first and second elasticized zones, said plurality of auxiliary elastic members being attached in an extended condition to a location between the waist elastic members and the edge portions of the leg-encircling openings,

a tensile stress of the auxiliary elastic members is greater in the first elasticized zone than in the second elasticized zone.

Claim 3 (previously amended): The disposable pull-on undergarment of Claim 1, further

Appl. No. 09/976,182
Amdt. Dated September 5, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 5, 2003

comprising:

waist elastic members extending in the waist-encircling direction that are attached in an extended condition to an edge portion of the waist-encircling opening;

a plurality of first auxiliary elastic members spaced longitudinally apart from each other and extending in the waist-encircling direction in the first and second elasticized zones, which plurality of first auxiliary elastic members are attached in an extended condition to a location intermediate between the waist elastic members and the edge portions of the leg-encircling openings; and

C | a plurality of second auxiliary elastic members spaced longitudinally apart from each other and extending in the waist-encircling direction in the first elasticized zone that are attached in an extended condition to a location intermediate between the waist elastic members and the edge portions of the leg-encircling openings,

a tensile stress of the first auxiliary elastic members being smaller than or equal to that of the second auxiliary elastic members.

Claim 4 (previously amended): The disposable pull-on undergarment of Claim 1 wherein said first elasticized zones when extended to a maximum extent exhibit an extension stress in a range of 0.2 to 2.0 N/25 mm and said second elasticized zone when extended to a maximum extent exhibits an extension stress in a range of 0.1 to 0.6 N/25 mm.

Appl. No. 09/976,182
Amdt. Dated September 5, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 5, 2003

Claim 5 (newly presented): A disposable pull-on undergarment which comprises:

a liquid pervious top sheet;

a liquid impervious back sheet;

a liquid absorbent core interposed between the top and back sheets;

front and rear waist-encircling regions opposed to each other and having longitudinal side edges that are joined together, at least one of said front and rear waist-encircling regions being elastically contractible in a waist-encircling direction;

a crotch region positioned between the front and rear waist-encircling regions;

a waist-encircling opening; and

a pair of leg-encircling openings,

said front and rear waist-encircling regions each comprising:

first elasticized zones which extend in the waist-encircling direction exclusively between each of the joined side edges of the front and rear waist-encircling regions and an adjacent side edge of the liquid absorbent core and

a second elasticized zone which traverses a width of the liquid absorbent core and extends in the waist-encircling direction exclusively between opposite side edges of the liquid absorbent core,

the first and second elasticized zones being adjacent to one another in the waist-encircling direction and the first elasticized zones having a tensile stress that is greater than a tensile stress of the second elasticized zone.

Appl. No. 09/976,182
Amdt. Dated September 5, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 5, 2003

Claim 6 (newly presented): The disposable pull-on undergarment of Claim 5, further comprising:

waist elastic members extending in the waist-encircling direction are attached in an extended condition to an edge portion of the waist-encircling opening; and

C2 a plurality of auxiliary elastic members spaced longitudinally apart from each other and extending in the waist-encircling direction in the first and second elasticized zones, said plurality of auxiliary elastic members being attached in an extended condition to a location between the waist elastic members and the edge portions of the leg-encircling openings,

a tensile stress of the auxiliary elastic members is greater in the first elasticized zone than in the second elasticized zone.

Claim 7 (newly presented): The disposable pull-on undergarment of Claim 5, further comprising:

waist elastic members extending in the waist-encircling direction that are attached in an extended condition to an edge portion of the waist-encircling opening;

a plurality of first auxiliary elastic members spaced longitudinally apart from each other and extending in the waist-encircling direction in the first and second elasticized zones, which plurality of first auxiliary elastic members are attached in an extended condition to a location intermediate between the waist elastic members and the edge portions of the leg-encircling openings; and

Appl. No. 09/976,182
Amdt. Dated September 5, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 5, 2003

a plurality of second auxiliary elastic members spaced longitudinally apart from each other and extending in the waist-encircling direction in the first elasticized zone that are attached in an extended condition to a location intermediate between the waist elastic members and the edge portions of the leg-encircling openings,

a tensile stress of the first auxiliary elastic members being smaller than or equal to that of the second auxiliary elastic members.

Claim 8 (newly presented): The disposable pull-on undergarment of Claim 5 wherein said first elasticized zones when extended to a maximum extent exhibit an extension stress in a range of 0.2 to 2.0 N/25 mm and said second elasticized zone when extended to a maximum extent exhibits an extension stress in a range of 0.1 to 0.6 N/25 mm.